

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DON GRUNEISEN FOR RECEIVING THE PRESTIGIOUS BETSY KAPLAN AWARD

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Gruneisen for receiving the prestigious Betsy Kaplan Award from the St. Lawrence County Republican Committee.

Mr. Gruneisen has been a dedicated community leader in St. Lawrence County for decades. Since he first became active in local politics in the 1980s, he has been a consistent voice for the members of his community and the causes that he believes in. Today, he serves as the St. Lawrence County Republican Committee Treasurer, a Regional GOP Chairman, and as the Potsdam Republican Town Chair.

The Betsy Kaplan Award, named after a former St. Lawrence County Republican Committee Chairperson, is given by the St. Lawrence County Republican Executive Committee to Republicans who go above and beyond to serve their North Country community. Based on Mr. Gruneisen's decades of activism and service, he is undoubtedly deserving of this recognition. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I thank Mr. Gruneisen for his service to the North Country and congratulate him on receiving this award.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TOM FLORES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Flores for his outstanding professional football career and his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Tom Flores, born in Fresno and raised in Sanger, California, was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August 8, 2021. After playing as quarterback for Fresno City College and then University of the Pacific, Flores began his professional career with the Calgary Stampeders of Canadian Football League. Although he would be cut in 1958 and cut from the Washington Redskins of the National Football League (NFL) in 1959, Flores won the starting quarterback position with the American Football League's Oakland Raiders in 1960.

During his career, Flores also played for the Buffalo Bills and the Kansas City Chiefs, winning his first Super Bowl as quarterback with the latter in 1969. Following his retirement, Flores worked as an assistant coach with the Buffalo Bills and Oakland Raiders, later being named head coach for the Raiders in 1979

and leading the team to Super Bowl victories in 1980 and 1983.

After working as the President and General Manager of the Seattle Seahawks, Flores went on to lead the Seahawks as head coach for three seasons before spending over 20 years as a radio analyst with the Raiders.

Despite his incredible success, Flores never forget his roots. His foundation, the Tom Flores Foundation, raised nearly 2 million dollars for Sanger Unified School District art, science, and athletic programs. In addition to being the first Hispanic quarterback in the American professional football, Flores is also the first Hispanic head coach in NFL history. The son of immigrants, he is an inspiration to countless young athletes in the Central Valley and all over the country.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Tom Flores and honoring his contributions to the NFL and the Central Valley.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY EUGENE "GENE" A. VITTONI II

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember the life of Washington County District Attorney (DA) Eugene "Gene" A. Vittone, II, who passed away on August 21st, 2021 at the age of 61.

A Washington County, Pennsylvania native, Gene Vittone grew up in Monongahela and graduated from Peters Township High School in 1977. He earned a degree in biological science, graduating from the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) in 1981. Gene later returned to Pitt to earn a master's degree in health administration and business administration.

Following graduation, Gene felt the call to help others and became a paramedic, later helping manage Ambulance and Chair EMS in Washington. Gene attended Duquesne University's law program, while still serving as a paramedic, and graduated in 1997. He maintained his paramedic certification for the rest of his life.

Gene started in the Washington County DA's office as an assistant DA in 1998. While there, he handled juvenile court and several trial lists and covered felony criminal trials. Gene also developed the Drug Treatment Court for the county.

In 2011, Gene was elected top prosecutor and began his term as the opioid crisis was unfolding in Pennsylvania and across the nation. As co-chair of the Opioid Overdose Coalition, he was adamant that law enforcement could not, "arrest their way out of" the opioid epidemic. Gene focused on treatment for users while aggressively pursuing dealers, oftentimes working across the aisle or with the

federal government. He was instrumental in bringing lifesaving Narcan to Washington County and pioneered the establishment of prescription drop-off boxes.

Gene was one of the first DAs in the area to introduce a full-time victim advocate to work alongside attorneys on domestic abuse cases. He was also committed to addressing elder abuse and served on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Elder Law Task Force. His care for others fueled his incredible work ethic, and he continued to work throughout his battle with lung cancer. A testament to how much his peers respected him, Gene was elected president of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association in July 2021.

Gene was a committed community member, father, and husband. He was an assistant Scout Leader for Troop 1419 in Bentleyville and coached baseball for the Bentworth Baseball Association. Gene sang with Washington Festival Chorale and his parish choir. He is survived by his wife, Jane Ann Vittone, and his two children, Michael and Laura.

Madam Speaker, even in his last days, Gene Vittone lived his life in service to others. He will always be remembered for the countless lives he saved in his fight against the ravages of the opioid crisis. I have no doubt that his incredible legacy will live on in Washington County and across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (HBCU) CONFERENCE WEEK

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced a Resolution to recognize National Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Conference Week.

HBCUs are an integral part of our society—academically, socially, and economically. Recognizing the value of HBCUs is vital as we continue to look forward to a more equitable society for all.

To that end, this Resolution provides a brief historical overview of HBCUs and how they came to be, and reaffirms our collective commitment to support the students of these colleges and universities.

THANKING CHRISTOPHER MARTIN FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 3, 2021

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Christopher Martin on

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